

## Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01

OMB-01 INRE-00 OC-06 FPC-01 SCEM-02 RSR-01 OCL-00

/145 W

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O R 061725 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3682

INFO ATO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USCINCSO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, CS

SUBJECT: ELECTRICITY CRISIS: GOCR ISSUES ADDITIONAL  
EMERGENCY DECREE

REF: SAN JOSE 1173, 1194

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT FIGUERES HAS DECREED  
VACATIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS DURING APRIL 11-22 PERIOD,  
AND ASKED ALL INDUSTRIES AFFECTED BY POWER SHUTOFFS  
TO FOLLOW SUIT. PRESIDENT ALSO TOLD THE PRESS HE WILL  
REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FROM USG, POSSIBLY  
IN FORM OF GENERATING BARGES WHICH HE THINKS ARE  
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AVAILABLE IN THE CANAL ZONE. EMBASSY STILL HAS NOT RECEIVED REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE, BUT EXPECTS IT MAY BE FORTHCOMING FOLLOWING EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING MORNING OF APRIL 6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DETERMINE AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY GENERATING EQUIPMENT. END OF SUMMARY.

1. THE GOCR HAS ISSUED AN ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY DECREE, PROHIBITING USE OF ELECTRICITY FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES THROUGH MAY 25, AND ASKING ALL INDUSTRIES IN RATIONED AREAS TO GIVE THEIR EMPLOYEES VACATION AT LEAST BETWEEN APRIL 12 AND 21. (APRIL 11 IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND APRIL 19 AND 20 ARE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS, SO THIS INVOLVES LOSS OF ONLY 6 WORKING DAYS.) THE DECREE ALSO DECLares VACATIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, FROM APRIL 12 THROUGH 18. ALL ELECTRICITY USERS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE SMALL DOWNTOWN AREA WHICH STILL HAS POWER, ARE URGED TO REDUCE THEIR CONSUMPTION BY 50 PERCENT. THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (PRESIDENT'S CABINET) IS MEETING MORNING OF APRIL 6 TO CONSIDER FURTHER MEASURES.

2. PRESIDENT FIGUERES TOLD THE PRESS AFTERNOON OF APRIL 5 HE WILL ASK THE USG TO PROVIDE GENERATING CAPACITY ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS. HE REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING GENERATORS AND/ OR GENERATING BARGES FROM THE CANAL ZONE. THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOCR.

3. MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION SILVA TOLD THE EMBASSY PRIVATELY THAT ONE OF THE 19,000 KW GAS TURBINES IS NOW INSTALLED AND IS BEING TEST RUN AND THAT INSTALLATION OF THE OTHER ONE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY MID APRIL. HE THOUGHT THESE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ABOUT ONE-HALF OF NEEDED EMERGENCY GENERATING CAPACITY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT CONTRACTING FIRM IS PAYING A \$500 PER DAY PENALTY FOR LATE COMPLETION,  
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WHICH WOULD INDICATE INSTALLATION IS BEING UNDERTAKEN

AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM STATUS  
OF AND PROBLEMS IN TURBINE INSTALLATION WITH CONTRACTING FIRM.

4. IN ANTICIPATION THAT FORMAL REQUEST FOR USG  
ASSISTANCE MAY BE RECEIVED FOLLOWING COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENT MEETING THIS MORNING, EMBASSY URGES  
DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DETERMINE  
AVAILABILITY AND DELIVERABILITY OF EMERGENCY GENER-  
ATING EQUIPMENT, BOTH FROM U. S. AND CANAL ZONE.  
VAKY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SANJO01125  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAN JOSE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 129  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 SAN JOSE 1173, 1194  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971202  
**Subject:** ELECTRICITY CRISIS: GOCR ISSUES ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY DECREE  
**TAGS:** ENRG, CS  
**To:** ARA  
ATO WASHDC  
GUATEMALA  
MANAGUA  
PANAMA  
SAN SALVADOR  
SECSTATE WASHDC

TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005